

State of New Hampshire. A proclamation for a general thanksgiving ... have appointed Thursday, the fourth day of December next, to be a day of public thanksgiving ... By order of the Council and Assembly, Exeter, November 17th 1777 M. Weare, President of the Council. E. Thompson, Secretary. God save the United-States of America. Exeter

1777

STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

A PROCLAMATION, For a General Thanksgiving.

IT being the United Voice of Reason and Revelation, that Men should praise the Lord for his Goodness and for his wonderful Works to the Children of Men; and the Year, now drawing to a close, being distinguished by many great and signal Favours of Divine Providence, conferred on this, and the other United States of America amidst our deep Distresses, and notwithstanding our manifold and aggravated Offences; sensible that Ingratitude is the basest of Characters, which, with deep Abhorrence we should ever avoid; and in order that our great and bountiful Benefactor may have the praise and glory, due for his Mercies, in the most conspicuous and solemn Manner ascribed to him:

THE COUNCIL and Representatives of this STATE, in General Court assembled, have appointed THURSDAY, the fourth Day of December next, to be a Day of public THANKSGIVING throughout this STATE; and hereby solemnly exhort and require both Ministers and People, of every Profession, religiously to devote the said Day to the Purpose aforesaid; and with unfeigned Gratitude and Ardour address the all-gracious Jehovah with their united Ascriptions of Praise, for the essential Benignity of his Nature, and the exuberant Profusions of his Goodness—for the paternal Tenderness with which the Corrections of his Rod, so abundantly deserved by our Back-slidings and heinous Offences, have been managed, and the rich Mercy he hath intermixed with his Judgments; particularly that he hath so far supported the great American Cause, and defeated the Counsels and Efforts of our merciless Oppressors. That he hath smiled on our Councils and Arms, and crown'd them with signal Success, especially in the Northern Department, in turning the Advantage the Enemy seemed to have gotten against us, by possessing themselves of the Fortress of Ticonderoga, to their own Confusion—and giving one of the principal Armies of Britain wholly into our Hands, with so little Blood-shed; in which great Event, so interesting to the important Cause depending, the Arm of the LORD of Host, the GOD of the Armies of Israel, is conspicuously manifest, demanding the Power, the Glory, and the Victory to be ascribed to him, and inviting our further Hope and Confidence in his Mercy. That he hath preserved our Sea-Coasts in safety—preserv'd the inestimably precious Life of our worthy

General, and Commander in Chief, and so many of our Officers and Soldiers; and that the present Campaign, pursued by our Enemies with such direful Breathings of Cruelty and Slaughter, and such sirenuous Exertions on one Side and another, has not been more bloody. That he is mercifully continuing the several American States firmly united in the Common Cause; and giving us such a promising, animating Prospect, of being able (by his further Help) finally to support our Liberty and Independency against all the Power, and Policy of Britain to subject and enslave us. That he hath bless'd us with so much Health in our Camps, and in our Habitations whereby we have been able to carry on the necessary Labours of the Field, while so many were call'd off to Arms. That he hath bless'd us with a very fruitful Season, and given us, in great Plenty, the precious Productions of the Earth for Food and Cloathing, peculiarly precious at a Time when our Imports from abroad are chiefly stop'd, and, therefore, binding the Duty of Gratitude and Praise upon us with encreased Obligation.—And above all, that in the greatness of his Forbearance and long suffering, he is yet continuing to us, an unthankful, unfruitful People, the blessed Gospel of JESUS CHRIST; and our Religious Liberty and Priviledges, by which we have the happiest Advantage for glorifying our Creator and Redeemer, and securing our eternal well-being.

And, as, in present Circumstances, we have Reason to rejoice with trembling, so let the Solemnity be attended with the deepest Humiliation, before the great Sovereign, for our many crying Sins and great Unworthiness of his Favours—begging Forgiveness thro' the all-atoneing Blood of the Cross; and the plentiful out-pouring of the Divine Spirit, for a general Reformation of Manners and Revival of Religion among us, left being deaf to the loud, united Calls of Judgment and Mercy, we provoke the God of Heaven to forsake us, after all the great Things he hath done for us; and so our unrepented Iniquity prove our Ruin.

And all servile LABOUR is forbidden on said Day.

By Order of the COUNCIL and Assembly, EXETER, November 17th, 1777.

M. Weare, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

E. THOMPSON, Secretary.

GOD save the United-States of AMERICA.

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Proclamation for a thanksgiving Dec. 1777

88/5